



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO: Project Engineers
Project Design Engineers

FROM: G. R. Perfetti, P. E.
State Bridge Design Engineer

DATE: December 10, 2004

SUBJECT: TOOLED CONTRACTION JOINTS IN PARAPETS AND
SIDEWALKS

To help control shrinkage cracking in parapets and sidewalks, place the following note on Standards BMR1, BMR1SM, BMR3, BMR3SM in the plans:

Grooved contraction joints, ½"(12mm) in depth, shall be tooled in all exposed faces of the parapet in accordance with Article 825-10(B) of the Standard Specifications. The contraction joints shall be located at a spacing of 8ft. to 10ft. (2.4m to 3.5m) between expansion joints. No contraction joints will be required for segments less than 10 feet (3.5 meters) in length.

When a sidewalk or a median island is shown, place the following note on the plans:

Grooved contraction joints, ½"(12mm) in depth, shall be tooled in all exposed faces of the sidewalk (median island) in accordance with Article 825-10(B) of the Standard Specifications. The contraction joints shall be located at a spacing of 8ft. to 10ft. (2.4m to 3.5m) between expansion joints. No contraction joints will be required for segments less than 10 feet (3.5m) in length.

This policy is effective with the February 2005 letting. The revised standard drawings are available through the S: drive and the Structure Design Homepage. The Design Manual and the Standard Notes will be updated at a later date.

GRP/DAS

Attachments

[Figure 6-18, Figure 6-18 \(Metric\)](#)

cc: R. V. Keith, P. E., with attachments
R. A. Raynor, P. E., with attachments
R. A. Hancock, P. E., with attachments
J. H. Emerson, P. E., with attachments
T. S. Drda, P. E., FHWA, with attachments